

be not utter darkness, the lustre of the whole is dimmed. Do such calamities need any assurance that such a catastrophe is not to overtake them? I believe I possess sufficient assurance that such a catastrophe is not to overtake them as the Union has been the source, under Providence, of our property to this time, so it is the earnest pledge of a continuance of the blessings we have enjoyed, and which we are so ready to transmit undiminished to our children. The field of calm and free discussion in our country is open, and will always be so; but it never has been and never can be anything but a field of calm and free discussion, and in a spirit of sectionalism and uncharitableness. The founders of the Republic dealt with things as they were presented to them, in a spirit of self-sacrificing patriotism, and as time has passed, with a comprehensive vision, which it will always be safe for us to emulate. Every measure tending to strengthen the fraternal feelings of all the members of the Union has been my heartiest approbation. To every theory of society or government, whether the offspring of fervent ambition or of morbid enthusiasm, calculated to divide the bonds of affection which unite us, I shall interpose a ready and firm resistance. I believe that the only way to secure the permanency of the Union is to enforce the constitutional provisions. I hold that the laws of 1850, commonly called the "Compromise measures," are strictly constitutional, and to be unconstitutionally construed into effect, I believe that the constitution of this Republic are bound to regard the rights of the South in this respect as they would view any other legal and constitutional right, and that the laws to enforce them should be respected and obeyed, not with a reluctance encouraged by abstract opinions as to their propriety in a different state of society, but cheerfully, and according to the decisions of the tribunal to which their exposition belongs. Such have been and are my convictions, and upon them I shall act. I fervently hope that the question is at rest, and that no sectional ambition, or morbid enthusiasm, may again threaten the durability of our institutions, or obscure the light of our prosperity. But let not the foundations of our hope rest upon man's wisdom, or the wisdom of the public deliberations. It will not be sufficient that the rash counsels of human passion are rejected, nor that the selfishness of sectional ambition is rebuffed, nor that the humbled arrogance of dependence upon God and His overruling Providence.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9.

Mr. Rusk, by consent, laid the Post Route bill, with numerous amendments, which were agreed to.

Among the amendments was one, making all railroads and parts of railroads post routes, and making the salary of the Assistant Postmasters General \$3,000 a year each, and providing for their future appointment by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and authorizing the counterfeiting of stamped envelopes.

The bill was then passed.

The Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation bill was resumed. Several amendments were proposed and adopted. One appropriating \$200,000 for retreating and refurnishing the President's mansion.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9.

Mr. Briggs moved for a suspension of the rules, in order to introduce a resolution, directing the Clerk of the House to pay (out of the contingent fund) to the employees in and about the Capitol, the usual extra compensation, embracing the salaries of persons employed in the Capitol, and the extra compensation for overtime.

The resolution was adopted.

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co, upon a grant to them of a million and a half of acres of land.

Rejected—yeas 21, nays 27.

Mr. Houston moved to postpone the bill, in order that he might have an opportunity of expressing his views on the resolution affirming the Monroe doctrine.

The motion was rejected—yeas 15, nays 13.

Mr. Gwin moved to amend the bill, by inserting therein provisions authorizing the Postmaster General to contract for a semi-monthly mail, in steamers of two thousand tons each, between San Francisco, via the Sandwich Islands, to Shanghai, China, at \$600,000 per annum.

Mr. Houston said, that it was allowable in debate to speak of all subjects, as well as the one particularly under consideration, he hoped no one would object to his speaking on this proposition to build war steamers, on the question of Foreign Relations. He then, for more than an hour, addressed the Senate, against the resolution affirming the Monroe doctrine. They were unnecessary. He was opposed to blustering in that manner. He preferred to let the world know our policy by our acts. He then commented on the resolution, and its effect on the Monroe doctrine. He said that the resolution, in its effect, was to establish a shipboard of two Gallipolis frigates, creating much merriment. That contest, he said, was bloodless. There was much blowing and tippling, but no harm done. He hoped these resolutions would pass away without hurting anybody.

After some debate on the amendment—Mr. Gwin withdrew it, and the bill was passed.

The Army bill was received from the House, with numerous Senate amendments disagreed to. It was taken up, and the Senate insisted on all its amendments, and a committee of conference was ordered.

On motion of Mr. Douglas, the Senate took up the House bill to establish the Territorial Government of Washington; and it was passed without amendment, and a committee of conference was ordered.

Mr. Douglas moved to take up the House bill establishing the Territorial Government of Nebraska.

Mr. Rusk and Mr. Houston opposed the motion; and Mr. Hunter urged that no contested bill be taken up till the Appropriation bill be disposed of.

The motion was disagreed to—yeas 20, nays 25.

The Naval Appropriation bill was then taken up. A large number of amendments, restoring the estimates which had been cut down by the House, were agreed to.

Mr. Gwin moved, for the construction of buildings, engine-house, foundry, and workshops, at the navy yard at California, to strike out \$100,000, and insert \$900,000.

The amendment was agreed to, when the sum was reduced to \$500,000; and it was then adopted.

Other amendments were offered, debated, and adopted.

An amendment appropriating \$150,000 for the preservation and protection of the dry dock in California, with a direction to the Secretary of the Navy to complete the contract for a basin and railway in connection with the said dry-dock.

Mr. Hunter, from the committee of conference on the Deficiency bill, made a report on the foregoing votes. The only amendment which the Senate desired from, of any public importance, was the one giving California \$300,000 out of duties collected there during the year.

Mr. Walker asked for a separate vote on concurring with that part of the report.

The Chair decided the report would have to be adopted or rejected as a whole.

The report was then concurred in.

The question returned on the amendment to the Navy bill, and was rejected—yeas 23, nays 26.

Mr. Mallory, at 8 o'clock, moved to amend the bill, by adding thereto the bill for a reorganization of the navy, passed some time since by the Senate. He urged the necessity for passing that bill.

Mr. Hale moved an amendment of several sections, to establish a court for the investigation of claims against the United States.

Mr. Bradley supported this proposition.

Mr. Pettit called for the reading of the two amendments.

Mr. Bright, from the committee of conference on the Army Appropriation bill, made a report, which was partly read. Amongst the amendments, he said, the Senate desired from, were several relating to California, the one providing for an emigrant route to California and Oregon, and the one relating to the anaesthetic ether.

The report was then concurred in.

The Senate adjourned—yeas 31, nays 30.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9.

The House proceeded to dispose of the remaining Senate amendments (as reported from the Committee on the Union and Pacific Railroad bill) to the bill making appropriations for the support of the army.

The following were concurred in, as they came from the Senate:

For the defense of San Francisco, California, \$500,000.

Fort Jefferson, at Garden Key, or Tortugas, \$1,000,000.

Fort Taylor, Key West, \$750,000.

Fort Pickens, at Pensacola, including barracks and quarters, \$200,000.

Fort Sumter, Charleston harbor, \$110,000.

Fort Carroll, Soler's Point, Baltimore harbor, \$100,000.

Fort Delaware, Pm. Patch Island, Delaware river, \$150,000.

Fort Knox, Penobscot river, \$55,000.

Fort Warren, Boston harbor, \$140,000.

Fort Mifflin, Governor's Island, Boston, \$29,573.

The Senate amendment appropriating the sum of \$150,000 for an exploration and survey of the coast of the United States, for the purpose of a railroad from the Mississippi river to the Pacific ocean, was concurred in—yeas 113, nays 61.

The House non-concurred in the amendment of the President of the United States, to enter into contract for the protection of emigrants on the way to the Pacific, by means of armed station houses, and by giving grants of land and remuneration to the emigrants.

The amendments to the Army bill having been acted upon.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union—Mr. Phelps in the chair, and proceeded to the consideration of the bill making appropriations for light-houses, light-boats, buoys, &c. It was amended; and then, without debate, the Committee rose, and the bill was passed.

Mr. Gorman, from a committee of conference, made a report on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill for the relief of J. C. Fremont; and it was passed.

Mr. Brown, of Mississippi, made a report from a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill for the extension of pre-emption rights to alternate sections along the line of railroads, for which Congress has heretofore granted lands.

The reports were severally concurred in.

The House took up the Senate bill providing for the survey of the public lands in California, and granting pre-emption rights thereon, and for other purposes. Adopted.

Mr. Houston said that the Senate had returned the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation bill with eighty-five pages of amendments. It was utterly impossible to get through with them in the ordinary mode of legislation, such as investigating them in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and indulging in debate; and he called for a vote on the bill, might fail to become a law. [Various voices: "Let it fail." "Let's examine it." "Agreed, agreed."] To test the sense of the House, he moved that all general debate be closed; and this was agreed to.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Stuart in the chair, and proceeded to the consideration of the amendments.

Mr. Smith said he had prepared a speech on the day of business, and asked leave to publish it.

The Chairman replied, it was not in the power of the Committee to give any such leave.

Mr. Smith then seized the privilege, under the five minutes rule, to lay down his main propositions. First, he intended to prove that the House had no right to amend the bill; secondly, that the House had no right to amend the bill; and thirdly, that the House had no right to amend the bill.

An amendment providing for the construction of a navy yard at New Orleans was agreed to.

A motion to incorporate the Texas navy into the navy of the United States was lost—yeas 30, nays 22.

The Committee of Conference on the Deficiency bill made a report, which was promptly concurred in.

The Post Route bill gave rise to some disagreement between the two Houses, which was at last settled by the report of a Committee of Conference, which was concurred in.

The Naval Appropriation bill being resumed, amendments, for the purchase of Windward building, and for the abolition of the spirit ration in the navy, were voted down, and the bill was finally passed.

The Light-House bill was taken up, amended, and passed.

The Indian Appropriation bill was taken up. An amendment appropriating \$200,000 for the removal of the Seminole Indians from Florida was adopted; also, an amendment directing all payments of money to be made directly to the Indians themselves. Many other amendments were rejected, and the bill was passed.

The Senate received from all its amendments on the Post Office Appropriation bill, to which the House had disagreed, and the bill was passed.

The Ocean Mail Appropriation bill was taken up, and after several ineffectual attempts at amendment, was passed.

The bill granting land to the several States for the Indian Insane, was taken up.

Mr. Dodge, of Iowa, moved to amend it by adding thereto the Homestead bill.

Mr. Adams, of Mississippi, denounced the principle of the Homestead bill.

Mr. Brodhead opposed it, and moved to amend by adding a section giving to all those engaged in the war of 1812, 160 acres of land each.

This amendment was adopted, and then Mr. Adams moved to amend by adding a graduation clause.

Mr. Chase hoped that every proposition to amend the Homestead bill would be voted down, and desired the friends of this bill and of the bill for the Indian Insane, to permit the question to be taken upon them separately.

Mr. Walker made a speech, generally denunciatory against all who did not exactly agree in his policy.

The debate was continued, being interrupted only by reports of Committees of Conference, till 4 o'clock in the morning, when the subject was laid upon the table.

A message being received from the House, that the report of the Committee of Conference on the Civil and Diplomatic bill was there disagreed to, and asking a new committee, a warm debate sprang up, but at last the Senate voted to appoint a Committee of Conference was appointed.

The Nebraska bill, on motion of Mr. Douglas, was taken up.

Mr. Atchison, of Missouri, supported it, and Messrs. Caldwell and Houston opposed it.

Meaning, the reports of the Committee of Conference on the various appropriation bills were made, and considered.

Several private bills were also passed.

The Nebraska bill was laid upon the table; and at 12 o'clock the President *pro tem.* announced an adjournment *sine die.*

SENATE—THURSDAY AND FRIDAY.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10.

A bill for the completion of public buildings in Minnesota was passed.

The Naval Appropriation bill being taken up, Mr. Mallory's amendment for a reorganization of the navy was agreed to—yeas 22, nays 20.

A message having been received from the House, announcing its non-concurrence in the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the House and Senate in regard to the Deficiency bill, after considerable debate, a second committee was appointed.

A provision was added to the Naval Appropriation bill, for the completion of the basin and railway in connection with the dry dock in California.

A proposition to amend the bill by providing for the exploration of Africa, in the neighborhood of Liberia, was lost—yeas 20, nays 21.

A Committee of Conference was appointed on the Civil and Diplomatic bill, which had just been received from the House with several of the Senate's amendments disagreed to.

Several propositions to increase the navy were voted down.

An amendment providing for the construction of a navy yard at New Orleans was agreed to.

A motion to incorporate the Texas navy into the navy of the United States was lost—yeas 30, nays 22.

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This amendment was adopted, and then Mr. Adams moved to amend by adding a graduation clause.

Mr. Chase hoped that every proposition to amend the Homestead bill would be voted down, and desired the friends of this bill and of the bill for the Indian Insane, to permit the question to be taken upon them separately.

Mr. Walker made a speech, generally denunciatory against all who did not exactly agree in his policy.

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The debate was continued, being interrupted only by reports of Committees of Conference, till 4 o'clock in the morning, when the subject was laid upon the table.

A message being received from the House, that the report of the Committee of Conference on the Civil and Diplomatic bill was there disagreed to, and asking a new committee, a warm debate sprang up, but at last the Senate voted to appoint a Committee of Conference was appointed.

The Nebraska bill, on motion of Mr. Douglas, was taken up.

Mr. Atchison, of Missouri, supported it, and Messrs. Caldwell and Houston opposed it.

Meaning, the reports of the Committee of Conference on the various appropriation bills were made, and considered.

Several private bills were also passed.

The Nebraska bill was laid upon the table; and at 12 o'clock the President *pro tem.* announced an adjournment *sine die.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—THURSDAY AND FRIDAY.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10.

The Post Office Appropriation bill, with amendments from the Whole on the state of the Union, was taken up.

The Committee of Conference on the Deficiency bill made a report, which was promptly concurred in.

The Post Route bill gave rise to some disagreement between the two Houses, which was at last settled by the report of a Committee of Conference, which was concurred in.

The Naval Appropriation bill being resumed, amendments, for the purchase of Windward building, and for the abolition of the spirit ration in the navy, were voted down, and the bill was finally passed.

The Light-House bill was taken up, amended, and passed.

The Indian Appropriation bill was taken up. An amendment appropriating \$200,000 for the removal of the Seminole Indians from Florida was adopted; also, an amendment directing all payments of money to be made directly to the Indians themselves. Many other amendments were rejected, and the bill was passed.

The Senate received from all its amendments on the Post Office Appropriation bill, to which the House had disagreed, and the bill was passed.

The Ocean Mail Appropriation bill was taken up, and after several ineffectual attempts at amendment, was passed.

The bill granting land to the several States for the Indian Insane, was taken up.

Mr. Dodge, of Iowa, moved to amend it by adding thereto the Homestead bill.

Mr. Adams, of Mississippi, denounced the principle of the Homestead bill.

Mr. Brodhead opposed it, and moved to amend by adding a section giving to all those engaged in the war of 1812, 160 acres of land each.

This amendment was adopted, and then Mr. Adams moved to amend by adding a graduation clause.

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